

Tunisia moves closer to Algeria

ALGIERS, July 16 (R). — Tunisia Interior Minister Tahar Belkhouja arrived here today for talks with Algerian ministers aimed at settling problems in relations between the two countries. Observers see the talks as a significant development in the sometimes strained ties between the two Arab neighbours. Speaking on his arrival, Mr. Belkhouja said he had a message for Algerian President Houari Boumedienne from President Habib Bourguiba. He said he would be briefing the Algerian government on a Tunisian-Algerian agreement signed yesterday for the building of a gas pipeline which would carry Algerian natural gas to Italy through Tunisia.

Volume 2, Number 504

AMMAN, SUNDAY, JULY 17, 1977 — RAJAB 30, 1397

Price: 50 fils

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

موروث تاريخي وسياسي يصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية «الرأي»

Clashes mar Israeli Sabbath

TEL AVIV, July 16 (R). — A police officer was seriously injured and a pregnant woman and four other policemen slightly hurt in clashes today between Orthodox and non-religious residents of the town of Bnei Brak. It was the second Saturday running of demonstrations and counter-demonstrations over the closure of a town street to traffic on the Sabbath. The street is inhabited mainly by strictly orthodox Jews, who do not travel on the Sabbath. Tension rose in the area two weeks ago after a man was killed and another injured when the jeep in which they were travelling crashed into an iron chain blocking off the street.

Press reports success as Butros ends talks

BEIRUT, July 16 (R). — Lebanese Foreign Minister Fuad Butros today returned to Beirut from Damascus amid press reports that agreement had been reached on how to restore peace to the troubled south.

Mr. Butros drove straight to the presidential palace near here, where he briefed President Elias Sarkis on the outcome of his talks with Syrian President Hafez Assad and Foreign Minister Abdul Halim Khaddam and conveyed a verbal reply to a similar message from President Sarkis to President Assad.

Meanwhile, rightwing Phalangist leader Pierre Gemayel left Beirut today for a tour of Morocco and Tunisia to discuss the Lebanese situation with officials there.

The Lebanese independent newspaper Al Bayraq reported that Mr. Khaddam and his Lebanese counterpart had reached agreement on ways to handle the situation in the south.

The paper said the five-point formula provided for stopping the fighting in the south, withdrawal of armed men and the pulling back of Palestinians from all southern villages under the Cairo agreement. It also provided for the despatch of a Lebanese mobile military force to the south and an internal security force to the Tyre region and "restoring the Lebanese state's authority over the whole south," the paper said.

Communist Party link helps Italian premier

ROME, July 16 (R). — Italy's Christian Democratic minority government, long considered one of the country's weakest post-war administrations, has emerged much strengthened from a six-party legislative pact passed by parliament last night.

The pact links the country's powerful Communist Party with the government for the first time since 1947 and will provide Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti with a broad parliamentary majority in tackling Italy's most pressing problems.

It also boosted his government's prestige abroad by giving it the political stability lacking since Signor Andreotti took office in August last year without a parliamentary majority.

The Prime Minister will go to Paris next week for talks with President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing and he meets President Carter in Washington the week after.

"From today, we feel stronger," the prime minister told the Chamber of Deputies (lower house) when summing up a four-day debate on the pact last night.

The pact covers legislation -- yet to be worked out -- on combating a growing law and order crisis, for economic measures to fight inflation and in-

crease productivity, educational reforms and the transfer of some central power to regional governments.

All sides agreed that the pact was no more than a compromise and the Prime Minister made clear that it did not amount to a fusion of the parties but a "responsible response to our enormous problems."

He said that the government, with the support of the parties, had in the last few months prevented an economic and financial crisis and "set the Italian people on an upward path."

For the communists, who made large gains after the general elections in June last year, the agreement constitutes another important step towards their long-term aim of sharing power with the Christian Democrats.

The communist daily newspaper L'Unita said today the pact opened a new chapter in Italy's political life by creating "a climate of harmony and cooperation" among the parties.

The pact also involves the Socialist, Social Democrat, Republican and Liberal parties which, along with the Communists, previously supported the Andreotti government by abstaining on key votes in parliament.

disaster area status on the affected area at the request of State Governor Hugh Carey.

This makes owners of looted and fire-damaged shops eligible for low interest loans of up to \$500,000.

When Mayor Abraham Beame toured looted and burned areas of the city Friday he ran into a hostile chant of "Jobs, jobs, jobs."

The mayor emerged from a bus in the Bedford-Stuyvesant sector of Brooklyn, one of the areas most severely scarred by the big power blackout.

"How about some jobs, mayor," chanted one youth. "If there'd been jobs, this wouldn't have happened, we wouldn't have to steal."

"After the stealing, then the bloodshed," a black man yelled as Mayor Beame stopped in front of the remains of what was once a discount shoe and clothing store.

At one stop, Mayor Beame tried to explain to a store owner the various government loan and recovery plans open to small businessmen hurt by the looting. But Stanley Schalek,

who operated the Nice and Pretty Women's Clothing Store for nearly 10 years, could not be consoled.

"The police didn't try to stop the looters," Mr. Schalek said bitterly. "They took everything. Do you think anyone would want to come back here? No way." Mr. Schalek, who said he had little property insurance, estimated the clothing loss at \$20,000 and his store fixtures were virtually destroyed.

"So a few poor businessmen got messed up," a young man yelled at the mayor. "There's no jobs here. You should come up here more often, not when there's a disaster, but when there's no jobs and no food."

Meanwhile the justice system was in chaos as bleary-eyed judges and lawyers dealt with the largest mass arrest of criminal suspects in the city's history.

Some 14 courtrooms were working around the clock until late yesterday as judges, prosecutors and lawyers faced cases of 3,500 people arrested during the disorders.



AIRPORT SPEECH -- Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin (left) speaks to the people who welcomed him and his wife after their arrival at New York's Kennedy Airport Friday. (AP wirephoto).

Begin: Establishment of Palestinian state would be mortal wound to Israel

NEW YORK, July 16 (R). — Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin today began a week-end of private meetings with prominent American Jewish leaders before a round of talks with President Carter next week.

Aides said his visit here was personal and issued no agenda, but said his plans included a meeting with Menachem Schneerson, the Rabbi of Lubavitch, one of the most important Jewish leaders in the world.

Rabbi Schneerson's title comes from the town of Lubavitch, Russia, where a sect of Jews was formed some 200 years ago, according to Rabbi Ben-Zion Klein at the Brooklyn headquarters of the group.

Mr. Begin arrived in New York yesterday and told waiting journalists the establishment

of a Palestinian state would be a mortal wound to Israel. The newly-elected prime minister said he hoped his meetings with President Carter would lead to negotiations between Israel and Arab nations, perhaps in October.

He said he had brought details of peace proposals approved by his cabinet which he would present to President Carter.

The president of the American-Arab relations Committee, Dr. M.T. Mehdi, said his group which claims 50,000 members, would protest against Mr. Begin's visit by demonstrating in New York and in front of the White House in Washington.

He told reporters Mr. Begin's proposals to President Carter were doomed to failure if they did not include recognition of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

State department officials in Washington said Mr. Begin's talks with President Carter should help determine the best way to proceed towards a re-convened Geneva Middle East peace conference later this year.

The Carter administration has said the U.S. would press for a comprehensive settlement and not a further interim agreement or step-by-step diplomacy.

Mr. Begin will return to New York after meeting with President Carter for talks with United Nations Secretary General Kurt Waldheim.

Dutch efforts to form government still deadlocked

THE HAGUE, July 16 (R). — Queen Juliana, facing one of the most difficult political decisions of her 29-year reign, today sought a way out of the stalemate caused by the collapse of all efforts to form a new Dutch government.

Labour Party caretaker Prime Minister Joop den Uyl relinquished a mandate to form a government yesterday. He had failed to agree with the Christian Democrats, second biggest parliamentary party following a general election on May 25, on a scheme for sharing excess industrial profits among workers.

With Mr. den Uyl's efforts to form a three-party centre-left coalition now in pieces, a centre-right partnership of Christian Democrats and Liberals appears the obvious alternative.

But Christian Democrat leader Andreas van Agt told the queen yesterday he did not want to be asked to form such a partnership until all hope of agreement with Labour was exhausted.

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Free Saudi backing for Egypt's military announced by Sadat

CAIRO, July 16 (R). — Egypt's armed forces are to be developed by Saudi Arabia free of cost for five years, President Anwar Sadat said today.

He made the announcement to a stormy meeting of the Arab Socialist Union -- watchdog of Egypt's three political parties -- during which he was heckled and accused of being pro-western.

The president also spoke for the first time in terms of recognizing Israel as "one of the middle east states."

Correspondents here could not recall President Sadat using this form of words before although he has frequently expressed his readiness to recognize Israel's existence under certain conditions.

President Sadat, in a wide-ranging speech lasting more than three hours, defended his open-door policy to the west and Egypt's close links with conservative Arab countries.

The president said: "Saudi Arabia undertook last year to develop the Egyptian armed forces over the coming five years without Egypt's paying a penny."

He was replying to one heckler who accused the president of departing from the policies of the late President Gamal Abdel Nasser.

The heckler singled out in particular President Sadat's open door policy to the west for attack.

The president replied that during Nasser's last visit to Moscow in 1970 the Soviet Union had told him it would in future sell weapons to Egypt only for cash.

Egypt turned to Libya and other Arab countries for 20 million Egyptian pounds (same sterling) help, he said. Libya promised ten million but never paid while Kuwait donated five million.

How could this be compared to the Saudi Arabian pledge, he asked.

President Sadat did not give any details on the Saudi arms aid.

The president has in the past said that Saudi Arabia has helped Egypt buy arms but today was the first time he announced that the country had committed itself to a major arms development scheme for Egypt at no cost.

During the speech, which lasted more than three hours, President Sadat also lashed out at rightwing Moslem extremists and the left.

Egypt has blamed "communists" for bloody food riots last January which left about 80 dead. Earlier this month an ultra-conservative Moslem sect kidnapped and later murdered a former Egyptian cabinet minister.

Observers could not recall a time when President Sadat had come under such persistent heckling and criticism as today.

One of his main critics was an independent Member of Parliament, Kamal Ahmad, who describes himself as a "Nasserite."

He said President Sadat's policies differed from Nasser's and that the open door policy had encouraged consumption. It had not increased production and it had not helped farmers and workers, he charged.

He said the open door policy had led to the emergence of "new forces" which were trying to bring back the political parties and the social conditions existing before the 1952 revolution.

Nasser led the 1952 revolution which overthrew the monarchy and led to the banning of all political parties. Egypt celebrates the 25th anniversary of the revolution next Saturday.

President Sadat revealed for the first time the Egyptian version of what happened in Moscow during talks last month between Egyptian Foreign Minister Ismail Fahmy and his Soviet counterpart Andrei Gromyko.

He said the Soviet Union asked Egypt to sign a political agreement and abolish existing arms contracts. It also said

Egypt would in future have to pay in hard currency for weapons and spares.

President Sadat also said Moscow presented Egypt with two veiled ultimatums:

— that the Soviet Union must not be excluded from any Middle East Peace settlement.

— that the Soviet Union would back Ethiopia which it said Sudan was planning to attack.

President Sadat said Mr. Fahmy replied that nobody planned to exclude the Soviet Union from a peace settlement -- the Soviet Union is co-chairman with the United States of the Geneva Peace Conference.

On the second point, Mr. Fahmy replied that Egypt would throw "all its forces" behind the Sudan if Sudan was attacked.

President Sadat also revealed that China had supplied Egypt with further "very important" military spare parts free of charge. He gave no details. He said the gift was an example of the good relations Egypt had with communist countries.

Egypt has already announced that China gave it spares for its Soviet-built MIG-21 fighters.

President Sadat reiterated that he wanted normal relations with the Soviet Union "but I do not accept a new treaty with the Soviet Union. We want our relations to return to the natural course under the principle that there is no special status for any force in this country."

President Sadat said he would take a firm stand against Egyptian marxists and extreme rightists including the extreme Moslem Society known as Takfir Wal Hijra -- Society for Repentance and Flight from Sin -- which recently kidnapped and murdered former Minister of Religious Endowments Mohammed Hussein Zuhaili.

U.S. receives survivor, 3 bodies of helicopter crew shot down by N.Korea

PANMUNJOM, July 16 (R). — A U.S. army pilot, sole survivor from a helicopter shot down in North Korea on Thursday, walked shakily back to freedom at this truce village in the demilitarized zone tonight.

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draw U.S. ground combat troops from the divided peninsula.

Tonight, a North Korean army lorry brought three rough pine coffins to the Panmunjom joint security area, where they were carried across the demarcation line by officers of six countries represented in the United Nations command -- Britain, Canada, Australia, Thailand, the Philippines and South Korea.

Chief warrant officer Glenn M. Schwank 28, then walked without assistance from a North Korean building to the South Korean side of the truce village.

Medical examination of Schwank later showed that "two wounds" which as reported by North Korea, were mild cuts and a black eye. A U.S. spokesman said Schwank's psychological condition was "perfectly fine."

The brisk atmosphere of the arrangements today was set when the senior armistice delegates met North Korean Maj. Gen. Han Ju-Kyong told R. Adm. Warren Hamm no conditions are applicable to their return.

"All your side has to do is write a receipt for the delivery

of the crew and the bodies." Gen. Han said that since the United States had said the intrusion into the north was unintentional, "we are going to settle it leniently so that a complicated situation will not develop."

The senior delegates left their secretaries, Col. Terrance McClain and Col. Choi won-Chul to work out the details. The final return was held up for half an hour, because the receipt, drafted by the U.S., referred to a "military aircraft" and Col. Choi asked that it be retyped to read "helicopter" instead. Colonel McClain complied.

A U.N. command spokesman described the North Korean stance as "very mild and very understanding" while Adm. Hamm, later said the prompt handover was encouraging.

The atmosphere in the conference hut carried over to outside. North Korean guards normally dour, smiled and offered cigarettes to impassive American military police.

It seemed that both sides were trying to avert a crisis. No major alert of U.S. forces was ordered and President Carter in Washington said the U.S. did not want a confrontation.



STAND BY -- U.S. helicopters stand by on the helipad of the U.N. Command advance camp just south of the Korean demilitarized zone to ferry the bodies and one survivor released by North Koreans Saturday. (AP wirephoto).

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily
published by the Jordan Press Foundation

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Virtue of pragmatism

President Sadat was in for an unprecedented hot time when he announced during his address to the Arab Socialist Union that Saudi Arabia was going to foot the bill for the development of Egypt's armed forces over the coming five years.

Hecklers questioned the dependability of Saudi Arabia as a steady source of funds and the wisdom of leaning even further in the direction of the West. Yet there is virtue in consistency, and Mr. Sadat

cannot turn around in midstream. He sees an advantage and is pursuing it.

In fact, assuming that the Saudis live up to their commitment, varying Egypt's sources of arms -- a policy Mr. Sadat will no doubt continue to pursue with Saudi backing -- cannot possibly develop the country's armed forces to the level of sophistication required for a confrontation with Israel. On the other hand, Egypt can, at a lower cost, develop into the foremost military power on the African continent, which is not something to be sneered at by any means. President Sadat is trying to extract the greatest possible strategic importance from his armed forces.

As Mr. Sadat saw it some time ago, Soviet arms would not bring about a return of the occupied Arab (including Egyptian) territories, while American diplomacy could. So out went the Russians. Partly as a consequence, alliances in northeast Africa shifted. Meanwhile the supply of the most up to date Soviet arms dried up, although other weapons still trickled in.

Mr. Sadat saw that with the new realignment, a strong army would be an incalculable asset. With the growing strategic importance of the Horn of Africa and growing Soviet dependence on Ethiopia, Mr. Sadat saw that the times had changed, and Egypt's strategic interests with them. The Soviet Union's conditions for resuming the supply of sophisticated military hardware included a demand that Egypt use its alliance with the Sudan not against Ethiopia but to help bolster the regime in Addis Ababa. President Sadat had meanwhile reached an understanding with Saudi Arabia and Sudan to play an entirely different

strategic role in the area. He was not about to throw away his newly gained trump card.

President Sadat's decision to accept Saudi financing for Egypt's army was a well considered move. It will give the Saudis more influence in Egypt -- and more reason to keep the money flowing in -- while it gives Egypt more influence in Africa. Pragmatism has its virtues.

ARAB PRESS COMMENTARY

Jordanian dailies Saturday were concerned with the visit of Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin to the USA and with the possible consequences of such a visit.

AL RAI, in an editorial entitled "Carter, Begin and human rights," said that since President Carter has constantly been concerned with the issue of human rights it is hoped that he would discuss with Mr. Begin the human rights of the Palestinians in occupied Palestine.

The paper noted that the one time in which Mr. Begin talked about conflicting world ideologies he tried to equate himself with President Carter as a defender of Western democracy. He went as far as to call for the formation of a world front with a motto opposed to that of "Labourers of the world unite." This, while Mr. Begin considers it a purely internal problem of the occupation of land by force, the massacres of Deir Yassin and the torture of Arabs political prisoners.

The paper concluded that if President Carter would discuss with Mr. Begin the human rights of the Arabs in occupied territories he would prove the seriousness of his moral stand with regards to politics. AL DUSTOUR, in an editorial entitled "Why the silence?", posed the question that why are the Arabs silent at a time when Israel is starting its "true" peace campaign as it calls it?

Arab silence is surprising and cannot be justified, the paper said, if the Arabs realise clearly what they want and what they can offer, and if they are determined to force Israel to withdraw completely from occupied territories in return for a peace according to U.N. resolutions.

The paper added that Isra-

Torture, a flawed defence:

The Sunday Times answers Israel's protestations of innocence: part II

EDITOR'S NOTE:

On June 19, the Sunday Times ran a detailed account of the torture and ill-treatment of Arab detainees under interrogation in the Israeli occupied territories. Last week, the government of Israel replied to the report by the Sunday Times' Insight team, denying that torture was used at all.

Insight answered Israel's denials in an article that appeared in the Sunday Times on July 10. We began running that article in two installments Saturday. In today's paper we are also reprinting three letters to the Sunday Times on the same subject. Two of the letters are by Felicia Langer and Lea Tsemel, who have defended many Arabs detained on security charges in Israel. The third letter is by a former Israeli soldier, relating two incidents he witnessed.

The original Sunday Times report was reprinted in the Jordan Times in several installments from June 24-July 1.

Israel: Insight does not discuss the "well-known case of Zuhair Wasef Zaki Amro" who, it says, admitted killing a policeman but was nevertheless acquitted by the military court in Hebron "solely on the ground that there was no corroborative evidence." Israel adds that "after being kept in administrative detention" Amro was "released to Jordan" last week.

Insight: We did not mention Amro, but since Israel has these are the facts, rather at odds with Israel's version. Amro was arrested on Feb. 21, 1971 and tried -- at Nablus, not Hebron -- on May 28, 1972. In the intervening 15 months, Amro claims, he was tortured, mainly through flogging (beating on the feet). He confessed to two charges: possessing two bombs and the murder of a policeman. (He now says he was guilty of the bomb charge, but not of the murder.)

He was given a three-year sentence for the bombs, and the real reason he was acquitted of the murder was that others tried with him confessed to it themselves but exonerated him. They got life sentences, and the court did not inquire how, in that case, Amro had been induced to make a false confession. After his sentence, Amro was still held as a detainee and deported on June 26 this year.

Confirming spikes in the floor?

GHASSAN HARB. In section Three, the story of Ghassan Harb, Insight dealt with the case of a Palestinian Communist intellectual detained without trial from April 1974 to last January. We recounted his allegations of torture at an unknown interrogation centre jocularly called "the Palace of the End." We demonstrated that four others appeared at the same centre gave corroborative accounts of what happened, and we considered whether they could have colluded. "Taking the evidence as a whole," we said, "we conclude that it amounts at least to a strong prima facie case."

Israel: Insight's article concealed the West Bank Communist Party's part in "physical and brutal terror."

Insight: On the contrary,

we devoted five paragraphs to the party's alliance with the PLO. We pointed out, however, that none of the five witnesses in this section was ever charged with any offence. We then added: "That does not of course prove that none had committed an offence." But the issue, we said, was: "Even if Harb and his comrades were guilty, how were they treated...?"

Israel: "The fact, for instance, that prisoners were at such-and-such a prison together and both describe it, is indeed evidence, but it is evidence as to facts that are not in question."

Insight: This appears to admit a crucial part of our witnesses' testimony. The only time we compared descriptions in that way was in the case of the interrogation centre where Harb and his companions, among others, were taken. We did it because they were held separately, not "together" but a secret interrogation camp. And the key point on which they all agreed was to assert the existence of a tiny cell -- a "frigidaire" -- with concrete spikes set into the floor. Israel thus appears to concede the point that prisoners were held in these conditions.

Israel: Harb suffered from piles and his wife called him "a sick person."

Insight: Israel is unwise to raise this point. Harb was indeed due to have an operation for piles, but was arrested three days before his appointment. Despite repeated requests by, among others, the International Red Cross, Israel refused to operate. The surgeon who did at last operate on Harb after his release 23 months later told us that the operation was long overdue. So much for the doctors attached to the Israeli security forces.

As to Harb's wife, we think that she exaggerated his state after interrogation, and we quoted a witness to that effect: "He didn't seem as bad as I had heard..." We also think that, for equally understandable reasons, she exaggerated his illness on arrest. He was, in fact, an active man, holding down a responsible job.

Israel: "A formidable list of medical certificates" of Harb's examinations in custody "dis-

prove the allegations." "No attempt to bring any conflicting medical report was made." And Harb did not complain of torture to the doctors.

Insight: How could Harb provide conflicting medical evidence? He was in Israeli custody, out of reach of independent doctors. The most nearly independent witnesses -- the two men we cited who visited Harb in prison -- both thought he had been ill-treated. Israel, we note, does not challenge our demonstration that its ambassador to the United Nations publicly gave an untrue account of those men's findings.

Harb did in fact complain of torture at the time. He made a formal complaint to the International Red Cross -- a copy of which the Red Cross sent to the Israeli military authorities in the usual way. As for the medical examinations -- Israel cites six, but two were dated -- it is clear from their dates that three came before Harb's interrogation. The only relevant examination was on July 4, 1974, 18 days after the end of his intensive interrogation and that came about because two days before, on July 2, Harb's lawyer Felicia Langer had claimed to see bruises on him and others and demanded an inquiry. (See her letter on this page.)

In our article we quoted Harb's allegation that the July 4 examination was in fact "perfunctory." And not even the Supreme Court -- whose handling of the case was criticised -- found that Harb had no injuries. In a curious phrase, the court found no signs of "intentionally inflicted injuries" -- which taken literally can only mean that, sitting in camera, the court chose to believe the authorities' account of how Harb came by the injuries that were recorded.

THE CENTRES. In our Section Four, Where Does It Happen, we tried to locate this mysterious "Palace of the End." We concluded that it was probably at Sarafand outside Tel Aviv but added: "There is some evidence too that, at least for a time, there was a second such (interrogation) camp somewhere near Gaza."

Israel makes no comment.

Insight: Israel last week admitted to Reuters that there indeed was an interrogation centre in Gaza. It would not

let a Reuters reporter go there.

THE RED CROSS. In our Section Five, Limits on the Red Cross, we detailed, at length, the problems and restrictions that the Israeli authorities put in the way of the Red Cross. "The Red Cross," we said, "has filed hundreds of notices to the Israeli government" recording allegations of ill-treatment or torture. Israel devotes just two sentences to this crucial section. "Israel reports to the Red Cross on every single prisoner from the territories. The details of the prisoner are listed on a computer run by the Red Cross."

Insight: The second sentence is irrelevant. The loose wording of the first wholly fails to meet any of the allegations we made in its leading article on page 16. The Sunday Times defines what assurances Israel now has to give in connection with the Red Cross to allay concern.

Odeh: A confusion of identity

THE COMPOUND. In our Section Six -- An Assertion of Power -- we dealt with the Russian Compound in Jerusalem. We cited interlocking evidence from several witnesses that one young "troublemaker" had been beaten there, and possibly given electric shocks. We then recounted the testimony of Josef Odeh, who claimed that his daughter, Rasmieh, was viciously sexually assaulted in front of him.

Israel: makes no comment on the account of the "troublemaker." It says of Odeh's testimony: "The article fails to point out that (Josef) Odeh himself was tried for participating in the bomb outrages, found guilty by the court after hearing of evidence and witnesses and sentenced to life imprisonment."

Insight: Not true. Odeh was, as we said, released after 20 days' interrogation. The Israeli embassy in London admitted last week that its government had confused him with another man.

Israel: The Russian Compound is merely "the Jerusalem local police station." Israel disputes the trivial point that driving licences and identity cards are issued there; but says that lost property is collected in one of the "barracks" we mentioned.

Insight: The local police station is only one building in the compound. The barracks, as we said, house military and civilian intelligence agencies. On the trivia, we are right on identity cards, wrong on driving licences, but the Israelis are wrong about the lost property office, which shifted its site from the barracks to another building in the compound two years ago.

AHMED DAHDOUL. In our Section Seven -- Israel's UN explanation -- we tackled the question of how convincingly Israel had dealt with previous allegations of ill-treatment in

torture. We quoted Israel's ambassador to the UN as saying Israel made a "candid admission of any mistakes." We then examined the case of Ahmad Dahdouli, beaten to death last year by Israeli soldiers, and pointed out how reluctantly Israel had conceded anything, and how unsatisfactory the position still was in that affair.

Israel's reply makes no reference to this.

The lawyers reply

FOR ALMOST ten years I have been complaining in the names of my Arab clients about ill-treatment and torture in various interrogation centres. My clients are sometimes held incommunicado for more than two months, and only after receiving a special order from the High Court of Justice in Jerusalem can I see them.

Among hundreds whose names and details I have are Ghassan Harb, Mohammad Abu Ghayur, Jamal Freihat, Kaidoun Abdul Haq and Husni Hadad. I saw wounds on the bodies of my clients on July 2, 1974 in Yagur Prison. I asked for an immediate medical examination. The examination was not done until a considerable time later, after the marks and wounds were healed.

The two police officers who were assigned by Police Minister Hillel to investigate our complaints were hostile and biased. One of them told me that he believed that the wounds were inflicted by my clients with their own hands.

I submitted these facts to the High Court, but in vain. The result of the investigation was a complete acquittal of those accused of torturing my clients.

All my other complaints -- there have been hundreds -- have been described by the police as baseless, or as products of oriental fantasy. Because of our experiences I have in some cases abandoned complaints to the police: I have no confidence in the investigating officers.

This is the reason I have not proceeded with my complaint about torture in the file 598/76, mentioned in the Israeli statement. The case is that of Jamil Abu Ghayur (Insight report, June 19, page 20), who is unwilling to be questioned by the colleagues of those interrogators he is accusing.

The only reaction to my allegations has been the recent revocation of my licence to appear in court martial and some other courts in Israel if the minister of defence decides that a certain trial is secret.

It is an intentional and fraudulent misrepresentation to describe me (as the Israeli statement does) as "hostile." I am for a just and durable peace solution, with the right of the Palestinians to establish a sovereign state alongside Israel

on the territories occupied in 1967. I believe that I am serving my country and the dignity of my people by condemning and eliminating everything which would soil or corrupt it.

Felicia Langer

THE PRACTICE in the occupied territories is not to allow lawyers or Red Cross representatives access to prisoners until after 18 days, which usually means until after the interrogation is over and the marks of ill-treatment have had time to fade.

In Jerusalem lawyers are allowed to see clients while they are under interrogation but only to obtain power of attorney in writing. They are accompanied by interrogators and are not allowed to talk to their clients.

I am named in the embassy statement as one of the lawyers who claims that every client of mine who makes a statement to police does so under pressure. This is not so. In many cases I and other lawyers do not claim torture has been used even though our clients have complained of it -- because we are afraid it might be worse for the client. Only after I have warned the client that there is no chance of winning the "small trial" to check his confession and that this could expose him to severe punishment, and only if he still wants to complain of being tortured despite this, do I bring it up in court.

One of the mitigating circumstances affecting punishment is that the defendant "co-operated with the interrogators." This is why, though lawyers are sure their clients have been ill-treated, they have to change their tactics after losing the "small trial." In the last stage of pleading before sentence, they point out that as the court ruled that the accused "co-operated" with his interrogator, this should be in his favor.

Israeli prisons are not open to lawyers' inspection. When we are allowed to see our clients after they have been interrogated the meeting takes place in a special "lawyers' room," we do not have access to the cells or to interrogation centres. I have never visited Sarafand, which is not mentioned in the embassy's reply.

The Israeli statement introduces what it calls the "famous" case of Khaled Zawawi in an attempt to show that when I alleged that a confession had been obtained by beating him on the head I had forgotten that I had earlier pleaded for leniency for him because "he had a long history of chronic thrombosis."

This is a distortion of the facts. I first met Mr. Zawawi in May 1975, two months after his arrest. At his trial I produced a medical report showing that Dr. Anton Tarazi of Ramallah had performed

(Continued on page 2)

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Torture: A flawed defence

(Continued from page 2)

operations on his head to move blood clots, which I told the court were caused by beating during interrogation in 70. As a result, though he had very serious charges, he received a relatively mild sentence of three years jail plus he was suspended.

Last year Zawawi's father told me his son had complained that he had been forced to sign an application for "voluntary expulsion" after being beaten on the head again during interrogation by "Abu Al Sed" in Ramallah Jail. I applied against the expulsion to a Supreme Court, alleging at my client's signature had been obtained by force. The attorney General's office then announced that it was not intended to carry out the expulsion, so I withdrew the appeal.

Lea Tzamel
Jerusalem

Two incidents

THE CASES of torture that I describe are definitely not isolated ones. As an Israeli lawyer (presently residing in the US), and in my past capacity as an Israeli soldier serving in the conquered territories

of the West Bank and the Sinai peninsula, I witnessed similar cases to the ones you cite. I shall describe two.

The first took place in the Jordan valley near the Jiftlik Palestinian refugee camp which had been levelled by the Israeli authorities immediately after the 1967 war. I saw five young Palestinian Arabs blindfolded and handcuffed lying face down in the blazing sun.

A number of Israeli soldiers were kicking and beating them mercilessly for a few hours. No food or water was given to them during this period. I asked the officer-in-charge who his prisoners were and the reason for that treatment. His answer was short: "We suspect they are saboteurs, and besides, they are Arabs."

While patrolling in daylight the rural area in the vicinity of the town of al-Arish in the Sinai, our squad came across a hut. An old man came out of it to greet us. The commander-in-charge did not understand the old man and shot him dead.

I protested to the commander about his action. His reply was: "He is an Arab. What do you care?"

Nadav Carmel-Katz
St. Paul, Minnesota

Decree approves law on property for foreigners

AMMAN (JNA). — A royal decree was issued approving an amended law dealing with the rent and sale of immovable property to foreigners.

The law gives any non-Jordanian who acquires immovable property by inheritance the right to register it in his name without prior permission from the Cabinet. He also has the right to transfer, sell or donate the property to any other person from among the inheritors of the deceased, whether the person is Jordanian or a foreigner.

The law further allows any foreigner who used to be a Jordanian citizen, Palestinian or Arab national to possess immovable property in the Kingdom outside the municipal boundaries to set up a tourist, industrial, housing or land reclamation project.

In all these cases, the possession of immovable property will be subject to Cabinet approval upon recommendation by the minister of finance.

JD 8.5m Abu Dhabi loan approved

Another royal decree issued Saturday approved a loan agreement concluded between Jordan and the Abu Dhabi Fund for Arab Economic Development in April.

The Abu Dhabi Fund will provide Jordan with a JD 8.5 million loan to finance a project to boost phosphate production at Al Hassa mine.

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S. KOREA AGREES TO BOOST ITS EXPORTS HERE

SEOUL, July 16 (R). — Jordan has agreed to buy South Korean clothes, foodstuffs, electronic equipment and plastic goods, a joint communique said here today.

Officials of the two countries were discussing a contract for the deal, Minister of Supply Marwan Qasim told a press conference after signing the communique with Korean Commerce and Industry Minister Chang Yae-joon.

Mr. Qasim arrived last Tuesday to investigate opportunities for trade and economic exchanges. He leaves tomorrow.

The communique said Mr. Qasim was considering increasing Korean participation in the five-year plan.

The two ministers agreed there were vast opportunities for further expansion of mutual commercial and economic cooperation and said they would encourage their industries to work in this direction.

Chemists federation starts finance meet

AMMAN (JNA). — The Higher Council of the Arab Chemists Federation started its meetings at the University of Jordan Saturday.

During its two-day session, sponsored by His Highness Crown Prince Hassan, chemists from a number of Arab countries will discuss the financial situation of the federation and the possibility of Arab funds helping it out.

The conferees will also discuss the convening of a conference on fertilisers and a survey of all chemical research work underway in Arab countries.

In his opening speech, the President of the University of Jordan, Dr. Ishaq Farhan, who was delegated by Prince Hassan to open the conference, said that the conference comes at a time when the Arab World is witnessing a scientific renaissance and is adapting modern technology to its process of industrial development.

The federation's Secretary General, Dr. Abdul Latif Jabouri, outlined the aims of the Arab Chemists Federation and its efforts to improve the work of Arab chemists by organising scientific seminars, conferences and study groups and facilitating the exchange of scientific expertise.

The federation also aims to develop the expertise of the Arab chemist so it can be used to the benefit of the Arab nation.

He concluded by urging all chemists in Arab countries who have not formed their own union to do so to enable them to join the federation.

Representatives from Jordan, Iraq, Egypt, Palestine, Tunisia and Syria, as well as officials from the Arab Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization and UNESCO.

TIES ESTABLISHED WITH DJIBOUTI

AMMAN (JNA). — A royal decree was issued here Saturday establishing diplomatic relations with the newly-independent Republic of Djibouti.

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Hopes are pinned on next meet Law of the Sea conference ends

UNITED NATIONS, July 16 (R). — The next session of the 145-nation Law of the Sea conference will be crucial in preventing a free-for-all on the world's oceans and the mineral-rich seabed, delegates said.

The four-year-old conference ended its sixth session last night after eight weeks of negotiations here and will reconvene in Geneva on March 28 next year.

Delegates expressed satisfaction with the talks here reporting that they had narrowed their differences on several touchy issues.

But one committee officer said that unless members reached substantial agreement in Geneva next year the proposed convention on ocean rights might as well be scrapped.

The extent of progress made at the sixth session will not be known publicly until a

new consolidated negotiating text, still being drafted by conference officers is issued next week.

Conference Chairman Hamilton Shirley Amerasinghe of Sri Lanka told delegates last night the text would be extremely important and vital to future deliberations.

"I think we are all agreed that a certain degree of progress, substantial progress, was made during this session," he said.

Third World diplomats attributed much of what they regarded as the session's success to a more flexible attitude by the Carter administration and its chief delegate, Mr. Elliot L. Richardson.

Mr. Richardson said in a statement that the session here had "made very serious efforts to achieve reasonable agreement on the unresolved issues

in the proposed Law of the Sea treaty."

The conference was said to have reached a considerable measure of agreement between the industrialized maritime nations and the developing countries on a system to control seabed mining operations.

A proposed autonomous international seabed authority would supervise operations, both by its own mining companies and by private companies as to restrict private and state mining unreasonably.

Progress was also made on the question of navigation and overflight rights in the 200-mile exclusive economic zones claimed by almost all coastal states.

Differing viewpoints were also reconciled on the territorial rights of Archipelagic States and the easing of restrictions on scientific marine research, diplomats said.



SMALL ESSEN COMPANY LEADS WORLD IN NICKEL-PLATING — Major corporations are not alone in setting up records. Paul Anke KG of Essen, Germany, only employs a staff of 100 but this small company in the Ruhr recently inaugurated the world's largest nickel-plating unit in which an alloy of nickel and boron is chemically overlaid on iron surfaces. A fast-selling line is Anke's 25,000 and 50,000 litre chromium baths, which can handle parts of up to seven by three metres in size and forty tons in weight. Water used in the various stages of nickel-plating is purified so efficiently that it can be drunk after use.

U.S. Senate rejects lending restrictions

WASHINGTON, July 16 (R). — A Senate committee yesterday rejected restrictions on U.S. contributions to international lending agencies which the World Bank, one of the recipients, had said were unacceptable.

The action was a victory for the Carter administration, which had vigorously opposed the restrictions, saying they would have serious consequences for U.S. foreign policy.

The amendments to an appropriations bill, adopted by the House of Representatives on June 23, would have barred U.S. contributions to the World Bank and other lending agencies from aiding Cambodia, Laos, Uganda, Mozambique, Angola and Cuba.

But the House voted to bar U.S. contributions from being used in aid sugar, palm oil or citrus production in competition with American producers.

In a letter to Treasury Secretary Michael Blumenthal, made public on Wednesday, World Bank President Robert Macnamara said the bank and its affiliates could not accept funds from the U.S. under these conditions.

Assistant Treasury Secretary Fred Bergsten said the amendments would have far-reaching effects on U.S. international economic and foreign policy if they became law.

"Superdrill" is developed

JOHANNESBURG, July 16 (AFP). — A new "superdrill" capable of penetrating the hardest rock on earth at high speeds has been specially developed for the South African Chamber of Mines to rescue miners trapped at depths ranging to 250 metres underground.

The drill was developed for the Chamber of Mines Ingersoll-Rand and can penetrate hard dolerite rock at a rate of 3.7 metres an hour, with the hole narrowing from a width of 762 mm. at the top to 635 mm. at the bottom — wide enough to lift out hefty miners with ease.

Known as the T-5 because it is mounted on an Ingersoll T-5 drillmaster truck unit, the drill was developed from experience gained by Ingersoll-Rand of the trans-Atlantic pipeline project, an official communiqué of the Chamber of Mines said today.

The new drill can reach any point in any of South Africa's 40 coal mines which contributed towards its cost of \$4 million. While the drill is not of use in any of South Africa's gold mines which are the deepest in the world, the drill may provide the answer to rescue operations in most other parts of the world.

ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

Turkey, Denmark sign transport agreement

ANKARA, July 16 (AFP). — Denmark and Turkey signed a road transport agreement here yesterday under which 3,500 vehicles from the northern country will be able to pass through this land annually. Danish "TIR" trucks will pay 0.25 Turkish pounds (about 2 U.S. cents) per km./ton to cross Turkey.

Rwanda receives Arab loan

KHARTOUM, July 16 (R). — The Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA) has agreed to lend Rwanda \$6 million to expand its electricity supply system. The project, to be jointly financed by BADEA, the European Development Fund and the Rwandan government, involves the building of a dam and a power station. The loan agreement was signed here this week by Rwanda's Planning Minister Jean Chrysostome Nduhungirehe and the bank's Deputy Director General Dr. Omar Mohammad Osman. The loan is repayable over 20 years at an annual interest rate of 4 per cent.

Saudi Arabia explores underground freshwater reservoirs

By Shirley Hudson

LONDON (LPS). — A dig centuries into the past has been commissioned by the Saudi Arabian government in a bid to open up one of the most arid parts of the kingdom to agriculture.

For years fishermen in the Gulf of Aden have been able to toss a rope and bucket over the side of a vessel and draw up draughts of freshwater from the sea. Now the Saudi government has signed a contract worth 137 million Saudi Riyals (about £23 million) with a British company to explore the phenomenon.

It will check on what are believed to be large underground reserves of freshwater which have built up over the centuries beneath the sun parched eastern region of Saudi Arabia. The aim is to make the Umm er Radhuma area agriculturally viable.

besides a further 50 or 60 in subcontract activities and some 40 additional staff in supporting administrative roles.

Substantial quantities

Mr. Richard Hugh Hunting said: "The existence of sub-surface water, what we call groundwater, is the key to the development of this particularly arid area where rainfall is almost non-existent and where temperatures frequently soar past 40 degrees Centigrade.

"Substantial quantities of water are known to be held in a thick belt of limestone — called the Umm er Radhuma aquifer — which underlies the region.

"Determination of the quantity and quality of the water which can be extracted will be one of the main aspects of our studies."

Natural reservoir

The contract is between the Ministry of Agriculture and Water and Groundwater Development Consultants a company formed by the land and water resources specialists of Hunting Technical Services, and consulting engineers Sir M. Macdonald and Partners.

The task is to tap a table of freshwater which according to initial tests is trapped in a natural limestone reservoir believed to cover an area of some 350,000 square kms.

The study will take 3½ years and will involve more than 50 expatriate specialist staff

Examination of soils

While the groundwater resources are being studied a land resource evaluation will be carried out. This will consider the properties of the soils, their ability to support irrigated agriculture and other relevant factors in an area in which agriculture has been confined over the years to traditional basic techniques around a number of isolated oases.

The specialists will also make some examination of wildlife as well as of the movements of the Bedouin and their use of the land.

Some 15,000 square kms

Pilot farms

Mr. Hunting added: "Once



Deep wells such as this one, at Shagra, may spring up in the sun parched eastern region of Saudi Arabia. A firm of consultants has been hired by the government to investigate apparently plentiful supplies of freshwater trapped in a belt of limestone beneath the Umm er Radhuma area.

LOCAL EXCHANGE RATES

Following are official exchange rates in effect at the start of today's business day, as set by the Central Bank of Jordan.

The first column is how much you would receive in Jordanian fils for selling a unit of the foreign currency, while the second column denotes how much it would cost you to buy a unit of the foreign currency:

Saudi riyal	92.5	93.0
Lebanese pound	107.5	108.0
Syrian pound	80.9	81.2
Iraqi dinar	940	945
Kuwaiti dinar	1137	1141
Egyptian pound	457	477
Libyan dinar	740	750
UAE dirham	83.5	84.5
U.K. sterling	569	575
U.S. dollar	330	332
German mark	140.3	140.7
French franc	67	67.3
Swiss franc	132.3	132.7
Italian lira (for every 100)	34.7	37.6

No strangers

These British consultants are no strangers to Saudi Arabia. In 1975 they completed a detailed investigation into a similar water project which resulted in contracts with the Saudi government for plant and pipelines to augment freshwater supplies to the capital, Riyadh.

They also carried out the study and design of the Al Afaj irrigation project and have been involved in a number of other development studies in the kingdom.

THE Sunday Crossword

(formerly The New York Herald Tribune Crossword)
Edited by Herb Extension

A MOVEMENT ALL ITS OWN

By Alde Mied

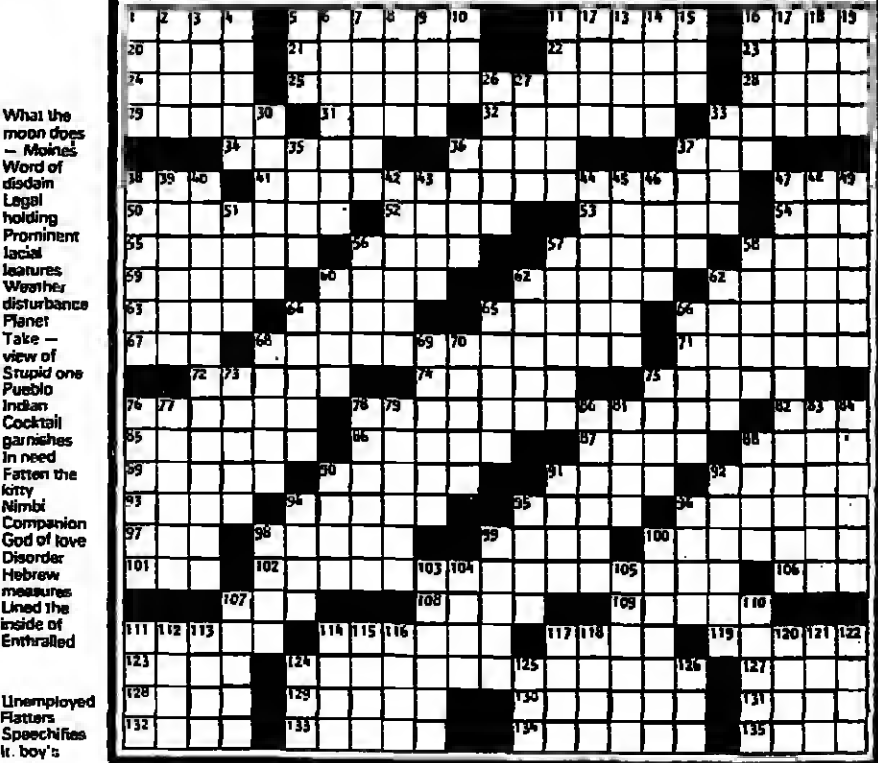
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The qualified firms are to be provided with a complete scope of study required as a base to submit their financial offers. The qualification results will be final and not subject to any objection.

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Rhodesia executes ANC official Bhebe

SALISBURY, July 16 (AFP). — At least three Africans were hanged here this week but the Justice Ministry will only confirm one, that of African National Council (ANC) official Robert Bhebe.

Mr. Bhebe was convicted in the high court of recruiting guerrillas for Mr. Joshua Nkomo's Zambian-based army and lost his appeal his appeal against the death sentence.

Secretary for Justice Mr. M. F. Garnett confirmed that Mr. Bhebe was hanged on Wednesday. Two other blacks are also known to have been hanged at the same time.

Mr. Garnett said hangings were not publicly confirmed "for humanitarian reasons". Relatives of the condemned man often lived in remote tribal areas and the Justice Ministry did not want them to find out about the execution through the media, Mr. Garnett said.

The United Nations and the International Red Cross were both asked to intervene in Mr. Bhebe's execution but the moves came too late.

His relatives visited the Salisbury prison on Wednesday to see him, but were told that he had already been executed.

In London, yesterday, Commonwealth Secretary General

Shridath Ramphal issued an urgent appeal to the International Red Cross to help put an end to "clandestine executions" of Rhodesian nationalists by the "illegal regime" in Salisbury.

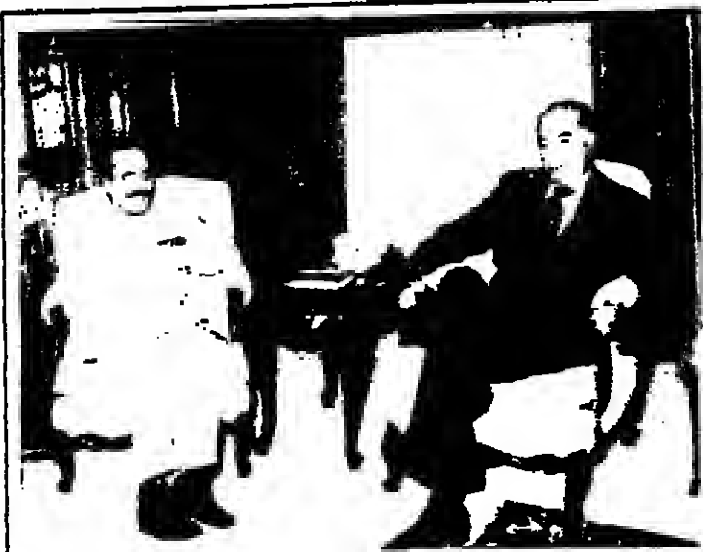
His appeal was contained in a letter to Red Cross Chairman Alexander Hay, which was made public in London.

"The continuing cold-blooded execution of political opponents jeopardises beyond measure the prospects of a constructive peace and is an incalculable threat to race relations, not only in Zimbabwe (Rhodesia) but beyond," Mr. Ramphal said.

Meanwhile, British Foreign Secretary David Owen yesterday, endorsed an appeal by the anti-apartheid Movement to save the life of Mr. Bhebe.

In a letter to the movement, excerpts of which were made public by Whitehall in London yesterday, Dr. Owen said that: "The British government does abhor the illegal regime's practice of imprisoning and executing its political opponents."

A Foreign Office spokesman in London yesterday added that "Dr. Owen deplores particularly that this policy is continuing at a time of negotiations in view of a peaceful solution to the Rhodesian problem."



DEPOSER MEETS DEPOSED — Pakistan's new military leader Gen. Mohammad Zia-ul-Haque (left) meets, for the first time since his July 5 military takeover, the former Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto on Friday. Gen. Zia-ul-Haque, also on Friday, met the president of the nine-party Pakistan National Alliance (PNA) for the first time since the takeover. The two separate meetings took place at Murree Hill Station, 65 kms. to the north of Rawalpindi, where Mr. Bhutto and the PNA president are currently under army custody. An official statement said that Gen. Zia-ul-Haque discussed the country's political situation with the two men. Gen. Zia-ul-Haque has promised to organise fresh elections next October. (AP wirephoto).

Third World news agency idea is hopeless, says Manila journalist

MANILA, July 16 (R). — A Philippines journalist who has been a leading figure in efforts to set up a Third World news agency says he is giving up the idea because of the difficulties in its way.

Mr. Teodoro Valencia, who is known to be close to Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos and his family, wrote in his Philippines Daily Express column that "the enemies of the proposed International News Exchange (INEX) have won."

INEX, to be based in Manila, was one of several ideas for a combined service among Third World countries.

Mr. Amador M'bow, Director General of UNESCO — the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation — visited Manila last

month and publicly supported such an agency, although he said it was not UNESCO's task to set it up.

Mr. Valencia, who told newsmen last week that INEX needed 30 million pesos (about \$4 million) to get off the ground, wrote that he had been offered moral and financial help but sympathy was not enough to fight off what he described as "hidden forces" against the idea.

He said people had been accusing INEX of being either Soviet or CIA inspired and "the idea crashed before take-off, just as we feared."

He also said that he now believed the only way the Third World could put up an agency was if the West did it for them, with profits going to Western capitalists.

"The idea is great, but I am afraid I am not in a position to surmount the obstacles they've placed before me. I am throwing in the towel right now," he wrote.

Carlos is heard of

MARMANDE, France July 16 (R). — Police yesterday reported finding an abandoned car containing official files on the international guerrilla known as "Carlos". The driver ran away when police approached the West German-registered car after an accident near this southwest town. Police said the vehicle contained Interpol files on a number of wanted men, including Carlos, who has been identified as a Venezuelan guerrilla called Ilch Ramirez Sanchez.

News Focus

London enjoys the "hour of the Arabs"

By Didier Fauqueux

LONDON, July 16 (AFP). — Europe's biggest mosque was inaugurated this week in a London which has become, since Beirut's destruction, the favourite summer residence of 400,000 Arab tourists.

Construction of the mosque, situated in Regents Park gardens opposite the United States ambassador's residence, has been impatiently awaited by the million Moslems settled in Britain. In the absence of a place of meditation, the Arab tourists have not hesitated to unroll their prayer rugs in the open streets or the paths in Hyde Park under the bemused eyes of Londoners.

Britain's capital city, which has just welcomed the economic conference of the European-Islamic Council, is today without doubt Europe's most fashionable capital for the Arab World.

The crowned heads of the Arab World and the emirs from the Gulf have long chosen London as their place of retreat in Europe. Most of them own at least one house there. King Khalid of Saudi Arabia, operated on in March in a London hospital for arthritis of the hip, has just bought a fabulous house for £1.9 million in north London's fashionable residential area of Hampstead.

Following its princes' example, the Middle East's bourgeoisie, which used to spend its summers in Lebanon before the civil war there, has for the last two years equally decided to settle on the banks of the River Thames.

Arab tourists have invaded Mayfair's elegant streets and those of South Kensington. The men wear their white robes, the women stay veiled — some even wearing leather masks on their faces so that only their eyes are visible.

Most stay only a few weeks in London, having neither the wish nor the time to adapt to the European way of life.

The influx of thousands of

Chinese official hints Teng makes official comeback soon

PEKING, July 16 (AFP). — Former Vice Premier Teng Hsiao-ping will be officially rehabilitated before the end of this month, according to a member of the Chinese Communist Party Central Committee.

Mr. Liao Cheng-chih, the President of the Sino-Japanese Friendship Association and himself rehabilitated since the Cultural Revolution, stated as much last Thursday to visiting representatives of the Japanese Youth League Council.

He said that the delegation would be able to learn of decisions taken about Mr. Teng before leaving China on July 29. He did not specify how these decisions would be reached.

The party organ, the People's Daily meanwhile today gave further emphasis to its campaign for the rehabilitation of Mr. Teng, who fell from grace after the death, 18 months ago, of Premier Chou En-Lai.

Without naming Mr. Teng directly, it devoted two pages to publishing his "20 points", the last article he wrote on "problems" concerning the acceleration of industrial development, before his fall from grace in April 1976.

This text was one of three "poisonous weeds" extensively attacked in the press after his fall.

The others: "Some problems on scientific and technical work" and a "General programme for all sectors of work", were officially reinstated on June 30 and on July 7, respectively.

The People's Daily yesterday appealed to the authority of

the "Great Helmsman", the late Mao Tse-tung himself, to justify the rehabilitation of Mr. Teng. It recalled that Mao decided on Mr. Teng's first return to political life, in 1973, after he had been purged during the Cultural Revolution.

Attacks on "the so-called poisonous weeds" were in fact the work of the "gang of four", and carried out without Mao's knowledge and against his and the Central Committee's "strategic directives", the newspaper said.

After Mr. Teng's disgrace, it said, "the gang of four directed intensified rage against Comrade Hua Kuo-feng, Mao's successor, Chairman Hua Kuo-feng, stressing their common opposition to the 'gang of four'."

For the first time, the People's Daily hinted at a close link between Mr. Teng and Mao's successor, Chairman Hua Kuo-feng, stressing their common opposition to the "gang of four."

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Groucho Marx very ill

SANTA MONICA, California, July 16 (R). — The condition of ailing comedian Groucho Marx is deteriorating, his guardian said here today. Mr. Marx, 86, has been in hospital almost constantly since he had an artificial hip joint inserted in March and caught a mild form of pneumonia. "A few weeks ago, I was optimistic for him," said script writer Nat Perrin, whom a court appointed Mr. Marx's temporary guardian on April 22. "But I don't think he is improving now. I see some slight deterioration." Mr. Perrin was appointed as a stopgap guardian after a bitter fight between Mr. Marx's female companion, Miss Erin Fleming, 36, and his son, Arthur, 56, for permanent guardianship of the comedian. Superior Court Judge Edward Rafeedie is expected to choose between them on Aug. 9. Mr. Perrin, 72, went to court yesterday to ask the judge to relieve him of the job and appoint another interim guardian because he has university lectures to give. Judge Rafeedie is expected to decide later on Mr. Perrin's application.

Last week's Soviet hijackers in for "harsh punishment", says Moscow Radio

MOSCOW, July 16 (R). — The Soviet Union last night threatened "harsh punishment" for two young Russians who hijacked a Soviet airliner to Finland and were sent back home after surrendering to Finnish authorities.

The hijackers — identified as Mr. Alexander Zagorjajak, 19 and Mr. Gennady Selushko, 22 — took 72 passengers hostage

when they seized the TU-134 airliner during a domestic flight last Sunday.

"An act was committed which the International Convention on Air Piracy categorises as a crime and which calls for harsh punishment," Moscow Radio reported.

The threat of harsh punishment was voiced in a Moscow

broadcast in its Czech service.

The official version by the Tass news agency said only that "judicial proceedings have been instituted against the criminals."

Tass reported that the two hijackers had been convicted of thefts for taking over the airliner belonging to the Soviet state airline Aeroflot.

Nasser: The leader as a father figure

BEIRUT, July 16 (R). — President Gamal Abdel Nasser will go down in history as the man who roused the Arab World from centuries of slumber under Ottoman and Western rule.

In the 25 years since the little-known army colonel overthrew the corrupt Egyptian monarchy no leader of comparable status has emerged to speak for the 120 million Arabs scattered from the Atlantic to the Gulf.

President Nasser's rise to the leadership of Egypt and the Arab World was born out of bitterness.

The son of a poor postal official, he detested the corruption that prevailed under the playboy King Farouk. As an army officer in the field he tasted the humiliation of defeat by the Jews in 1948 when the state of Israel was created.

He shared the Arab disillusionment with governments which put narrow sectional interests above the Arab cause. As he said in his memoirs "Philosophy of the Revolution," President Nasser sensed that "in the Arab circle there is a role searching for a hero."

In the words of a British writer, President Nasser also seemed to be a "revolutionary" searching for a platform.

He fitted himself for the Arab role and found his revolutionary platform in leading the revolution of 23 July, 1952.

"One of the first priorities he proclaimed was 'the charter of freeing the slaves from their masters'."

Within two months he had issued an agrarian reform law which broke Egypt's feudal fetters.

He gave not only land but also human dignity to the fellah — the Egyptian peasant who since the days of the pharaohs had a status no higher than that of the buffalo or donkey which shared his but of mud or straw.

Another aim, to end 70 years of British military presence in Egypt, was achieved within two years.

President Nasser had wider ambitions for Egypt.

Three events in 1955 realised these ambitions. President Nasser thwarted Western attempts to lock the Arab World into an anti-communist alliance by bringing the crowds into the streets of half-a-dozen Arab capitals to oppose the British-led Baghdad Pact.

He broke the Western military monopoly in the Middle East — and thrilled the Arab masses — by concluding the first Arab arms deal with the Communist Bloc.

He clinched his place in the world spotlight by joining the quadrumvirate who dominated the Bandung Afro-Asian Conference with Mr. Chou En-Lai, Premier Nehru, and President Tito.

Marking the 25th anniversary of 23 July, 1952, Elias Na'was, head of Reuters Arabic Service, and a student of Arab affairs for more than 30 years, assesses the late President Nasser's significance as an Arab leader.

The following year, 1956, crowned his career. The United States retracted an offer to help finance the Aswan Dam. President Nasser struck back by nationalising the Suez Canal Company.

The West was staggered, the Arabs enthralled. One Arab United Nations official told me after hearing President Nasser's nationalisation broadcast that he felt proud of being an Arab for the first time since the humiliation of the 1948 Arab-Israeli war.

In the aftermath of nationalisation Israel, Britain, and France invaded Egypt. Defeated militarily, President Nasser emerged the moral victor on a tide of worldwide sympathy.

Suez brought the Arabs out on the streets in anti-Western demonstrations, put Western interests in the Middle East gravely at risk, and opened the door to Soviet influence.

But President Nasser's sureness of touch seemed deserting him. In 1958 he was hustled by Syrian pressure into an emotional but inadequately prepared union with Syria. Hundreds of thousands of people gave him an hysterical welcome to Damascus. Within four years the union had collapsed in a welter of acrimony.

President Nasser then took his country into a military adventure in Yemen, where after a coup in 1962 he backed the republican side in a protracted civil war with the Saudi-backed royalists.

Critics and admirers of President Nasser still differ on the merits of the Yemeni adventure. But there is no argument about the disaster that struck President Nasser and the Arabs in 1967 when the Israelis seized the Sinai Peninsula, the West Bank, and

the Golan Heights. As the dimensions of the defeat emerged from the fog of misleading Arab propaganda, President Nasser took full responsibility for the disaster. In an emotional television broadcast he offered his resignation.

Millions of Arabs wept as they listened. Crowds roamed the streets of Arab capitals calling on President Nasser to stay.

After two days of mass demonstrations President Nasser agreed to stay in office. But although he purged his military and political leadership his own stature was diminished by defeat.

He began to re-arm for another war which he did not want to fight, and at the same time accepted an American peace plan. His health began to fail. He was struck down by a heart attack at the age of 52, on 28 Sept., 1970, only hours after a summit conference in Cairo in which he had successfully sought an end to the war in Jordan between the army and Palestinian guerrillas.

At news of his death the streets of Cairo and other Arab grief-stricken people. President Nasser had become a father figure for many Arabs. Now they felt orphaned.

A great leader had left the Middle East scene. But he bequeathed his country enormous problems — liberation of Sinai, salvaging a tottering economy, and building a sound political system with real democratic freedoms.

His achievement was unchallengeable, however. He had given his country an influential position in the world. He had given the Egyptian worker and peasant human and economic



President Gamal Abdel Nasser delivers a speech.

Speaking of President Nasser's failures, Dr. Hafez said: "Nasser failed to achieve a comprehensive Arab unity because of external conditions and the hostility of colonialism and Arab reactionary regimes."

Former Moroccan Deputy Premier Abderrahim Bouabid, leader of the leftist Socialist Union of Popular Forces, said President Nasser "symbolised the Arab revolt against corrupt systems and foreign domination, although it was a moral revolt without precise concepts."

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